

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-12 RSR-01 OMB-01 /122 W
----- 023237

R 240925 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1955

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS MZ

SUBJ: DGS UNIT AMBUSHED

1. MOZAMBIQUE INFORMATION CENTER (CIT) ANNOUNCED MAY 23 THAT GUERRILLAS ON MAY 21 AMBUSHED FIVE- MAN POLICE (DGS) BRIGADE TRAVELLING FROM CANXIXE (17 DEGREES 35 MINUTES SOUTH, 34 DEGREES 18 MINUTES EAST) TO SENA IN NORTHERN BEIRA DISTRICT. FOUR MEMBERS OF BRIGADE WERE KILLED IN SHOTTING; FIFTH WOUNDED AND ESCAPED ON FOOT.

2. COMMENT: THIS MARKS FURTHEST PENETRATION INTO NORTHERN BEIRA DISTRICT ANNOUNCED TO DATE. THERE HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN PERSISTENT RUMORS (DENIED BY BOTH MILITARY AND DGS) THAT FRELIMO PRESENT IN GORONGOSA MOUNTAINS (18 DEGREES 24 MINUTES SOUTH, 34 DEGREES SIX MINUTES EAST), NORTHWEST OF GORONGOSA GAME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PARK. (FRENCH CONGEN' S EX- GARDENER, NOW IN ARMY, APPEARED HOME ABOUT A MONTH AGO MINUS LEG, WHICH HE TOLD EX- EMPLOYER HAD BEEN BLOWN OFF BY GRENADE WHILE FLUSHING FRELIMO OUT OF CAVE ON GORONGOSA MOUNTAIN.) AND MILITARY SPOKESMAN INFORMED

CONSULAR CORPS AT LAST MONTHLY BRIEFING OF FRELIMO PRESENCE AT HONDE, SOME 30 KMS. SOUTH OF VILA GOUVEIA IN VILA PEREIRA DISTRICT. WHILE GROUPS APPEAR SMALL AND ACTIVITIES THUS FAR MILITARILY INSIGNIFICANT, PENETRATION OF FRELIMO INTO THESE AREAS MUST CAUSE PORTUGUESE CONCERN FOR SEVERAL REASONS. FIRST, IT PLACES GUERRILLAS CLOSER TO POTENTIAL STRIKING DISTANCE OF BEIRA- RHODESIA ROAD, AND GORONGOSA PARK, WHERE ANY INCIDENTS WOULD CAUSE WORLD- WIDE ATTENTION, FRIGHTEN OFF TOURISTS, AND GIVE CIVILIAN POPULATION CONSIDERABLE INCREASED JITTERS. SECOND, AREA IS INHABITED BY BARUE TRIBE, WHICH WAS LAST TO RESIST PORTUGUESE COLONIAL OCCUPATION AT BEGINNING OF 20 TH CENTURY AND WHICH RAISED BLOODY REVOLT AS LATE AS 1917. WHILE BARUE DO NOT STRADDLE MOZAMBIQUE FRONTIER, AD DO MOST TRIBAL GROUPS WHICH HAVE PROVIDED MAJOR FRELIMO SUPPORT, THEIR HISTORY SUGGESTS TO AT LEAST SOME KNOWLEDGABLE OBSERVERS THAT THEY MIGHT BE VULNERABLE TO FRELIMO RECRUITMENT SHOULD OPPORTUNITY OFFER.

VAN OSS

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NMAFVVZCZ

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